

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 8th day of December, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

LEON VALLEY PARK COMMISSION MEETING, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Determine a Quorum is Present.

Chairman Roger Christensen asked Commissioner Parker to lead the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance, in honor of the recent Paris attacks. He then called the Park Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following Park Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Linda Tarin, Carolyn Gabriel, Steve Parker, Belinda Ealy, Benay Cacciatore, Dorothy Humphrey, Jackie Walton, Kathy Hill, and Josue De La Torre. Also present was Community Development Director Elizabeth Carol, City Staff member Melinda Moritz, and Citizens Tom Benavides and Al Uvietta.

2. Review and Approval of the November 10, 2015 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2015 Regular Park Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parker. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard

Director Elizabeth Carol of the City's Community Development Department and Mr. Tom Benavides of the Tree Advisory Board came forward and gave a brief statement about the Tree Advisory Board's commitment to planting over 1000 trees in Raymond Rimkus and the Natural Area Park. She stated that the TAB would like to hold a joint meeting with the Park Commission at a later date to discuss their plan. Chairman Christensen asked what the tree planting schedule was and Ms. Carol stated that a schedule had not yet been developed. After general discussion, the Chairman thanked them and asked if there was anyone else to be heard.

Al Uvietta spoke, addressing the condition of the trees in the Natural Area Park, stating that an arborist had been consulted about the state of the trees and was told that they are naturally dying from age, and that the water and sewer easement areas had been denuded of trees by the San Antonio Water System. He stated that the arborist had recommended removal of the dead trees and underbrush. He then cautioned the group to water any trees that were planted.

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

4. Report on Activities that Impact the Park or Access to the Park

a. Add Variance Procedure to Park Ordinance – Council Action

Staff member Moritz addressed the Commission explaining that the City Council had approved adding a variance provision to the Park ordinance. Chairman Christensen asked if the Council had discussed adding a fee for requesting a variance. Ms. Moritz answered that they had and that an appropriate fee would be added to the city code. Mr. Christensen suggested that any City-sponsored organization be exempted from paying a fee.

b. Park Budget

1. Review of Park Planned Improvements for FY 2016 Budget

Staff member Moritz gave each member a copy of the current park budget.

2. Discussion and Recommendations for Park FY 2017 Budget

Staff member Moritz gave each member a copy of the recommendations from the Park Master Plan and also gave a short presentation. She explained that these recommendations should be reviewed at the January meeting so as to assure their placement in the next fiscal year budget. A general discussion was held on what type of amenities should be placed at each park.

c. Silo Park – Status of Development

Staff member Moritz gave the Commission an update on the Silo Park, stating that the Public Works crew had planted over 50 trees and had started construction on the trail.

d. Discussion and Possible Action and Recommendations- Handicap Access to the Natural Area Park

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Parker inquired as to the petition that had been received by the City, requesting that the Natural Area Park not be paved. He also noted that an ordinance existed that prohibited any development in the Natural Area. He explained that there were two troublesome areas, being the creek crossing and a severely eroded area. He mentioned that at a minimum, a bridge should be installed like the bridge behind the Public Works facility, which would preserve the Natural Area, and to improve the pathway over the eroded area, remove any tree stumps and dead brush, and use gravel or fill to smooth out the rough spots in the trail.

Staff member Moritz responded by stating that a petition had been received, but she was unsure how many signatures were on the petition. She then explained that the ordinance concerning the Natural Area Park did prohibit most development, but not trails. She stated that the ordinance allows the City to develop trails at that location.

Commissioner Ealy stated that she had gone in the Natural Area Park and that, although it was wet, it was still passable in her wheelchair. She stated that she would not like to see a man-made look, as the people that use this park want it left as natural as possible.

Commissioner Gabriel noted that the trail could be moved to the left where the severe erosion is occurring. She expressed her opinion that the trail doesn't need to accommodate two persons walking side by side. She also stated that she would like to see the trail moved around the creek and that the City should fix the erosion.

Chairman Christensen stated that a bridge over the creek could be considered as a part of the FY 2017 budget. He also noted that there were other ways to fix the erosion without having to lose the natural look of the trail.

Commissioner Parker stated that most of the trail was wide enough and that only about 100' needed widening. He stated that the focus should be on leveling the trail and removing tree roots. He stated that he would like to have an engineer take a look to see what could be done. He mentioned that the Boy Scouts has done a lot of the projects in that area.

Citizen Al Uvietta spoke, stating that the Natural Area Park must meet accessibility standards and that he had filed a complaint with the

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Department of Justice about the lack of accessibility at that park. He also mentioned that the Public Works Department had built the bridge behind that facility and could probably build the bridge in the Natural Area Park.

d. Silo Park – Status of Water Well and Update, and Detention Pond Functionality

Staff member Moritz gave a brief update on the Silo Park, stating that a location for the new water well had not yet been determined, but that the project should be bid soon and expected completion was in the late spring.

5. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Ealy stated that she was looking forward to the completion of the Silo Park.

Commissioner Gabriel stated that she would like to have everyone quit calling the Leon Valley Community Swimming Pool the Grass Valley pool, and that she was glad the City Council had budgeted for operations of the pool for another year.

Commissioner Walton gave her thanks to the staff for their hard work.

Chairman Tarin noted that she was also looking forward to the completion of the Silo Park.

Chairman Christensen stated that he would like to draw attention to the Parks ordinance, specifically the section addressing the removal of fossils, artifacts or other items of any kind from any of the City parks, including the Natural Area Park, and that any group removing these fossils should apply for a variance from the ordinance. He also stated that future agendas would include plans for the next year, a briefing on the LC-17 Phase III project, a tour of the Leon Valley Swimming Pool, and a meeting with the Tree Advisory Board in the May/June time frame.

Commissioner Ealy asked if there were any plans to incorporate the Forest Oaks pool.

Chairman Christensen stated that there were no plans to incorporate that pool at the moment.

**PARK COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS
DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

A citizen stated that the Forest Oaks pool was in good condition, and that the membership was solid, but that the Leon Valley pool was in direct competition as it was offered to the citizens free of charge. He noted that this was a critical issue for their members.

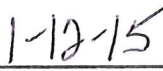
Chairman Christensen asked the gentleman to bring the issue forward at the next Park Commission "Citizen's to be Heard" portion of the meeting. He then stated that the next Regular Park Commission meeting was to be held on January 12, 2016, at 7:00 pm, at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road.

6. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gabriel to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Parker, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.



Roger Christensen - Chairman



Date